

**Drainage Board Meeting - Newton Co. Courthouse – February 6, 2012**

The Newton County Drainage Board met on February 6, 2012 with the following persons present: Board Members - Jim Pistello and Tim Drenth, County Engineer Larry Holderly, Drainage Board Attorney Dan Blaney, Surveyor Chris Knochel, LeAnn Sale and Secretary Debra Chapman Risley.

**Quotes Received – Kindig Bench Repair** – A quote was received from Ronnie Madison with a “not to exceed” amount of \$27,900.00. Tim made a motion to accept the bid as long as it does not exceed \$27,900.00 and meets with Chris’ specifications with a second motion from Jim. Motion carried. **Etta Whaley Surface** – One bid was received from Craig King in the amount of \$2,390.00. Chris’ estimate was \$2200 so the bid received from Craig was within the 10% allowance. Tim made a motion to accept Craig’s bid as long as it meets Chris’ specifications. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Kindig Structure Financial Assignment** – Chris reported he had spoken with Steve Kindig and that Steve had agreed to pay \$10,000 toward the project. Deb reported that after bills are paid for the Kindig Structure, Bench and Sidebank Repair and payment of \$10,000 received there would be an estimated fund balance of \$6,941.16. Tim made a motion to accept the \$10,000 from Steve and to continue with the reconstruction of the Kindig –Montgomery. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**McCray-Ade Structure** - Chris told the board he had been approached by Cliff Roberts regarding a structure by which Cliff benefits that crosses the McCray-Ade. The bottom of the ditch went out and the whole culvert has dropped making it impossible for the farmer to gain entry. Chris’ estimate for the project is \$13,000 for a new culvert and rip rap for stabilization. Deb gave the financial report stating that the drain currently owes the GDIF \$5,611.38 however it was assessed in 2011 and is on the 2012 assessment roll also. It brings in \$1158.91 per yr. with 1158 acres being assessed at \$1.00/ac. Chris had mentioned to Cliff that the board would have to decide how much they wanted him to pay toward the project. Chris is to ask Cliff if he could come to the next meeting so that his contribution could be discussed with the board - otherwise the assessment rate would definitely have to be raised.

**Charles Triplett Tile** – Chris found information in Cause #5199 dated March 23, 1910 and then notation of another 5 items in the Commissioners Record Book #14 concerning the Charles Triplett Tile. There is a watershed map that shows a defined route of the tile and according to Chris it is a regulated drain and has been since 1910. Nothing could be done with the tile that ran south because he didn’t know the status of this tile. Since it is a regulated drain it is now protected and he can go in. The essence of the surveyor’s report states that the drain is obstructed and there are enough landowners that want the work done to warrant the project. Chris will be securing the data necessary to develop a scope of work.

**Hunter Ditch** – Contract was signed.

**Coleman Easement Report** – Dan reported that he had spoken and written to Joe Morrison suggesting we create a ditch around to the west and leave the tile under the trailer so that Mr. Coleman can keep the trailer where it is. Otherwise Mr. Coleman would have to move the trailer. There is no platted easement at the current time, however if a new ditch were placed around the trailer there would be an easement.

**Long Range Plan** – Chris reported that the DeFries had not been included in Long Range Plan as it is part of the DeHaan and has been included with the DeHaan Ditch Project per the Bi-County Drainage Board initiative. Chris needs to clarify what is going to happen to the DeFries in Newton County as it drains into the DeHaan.

Chris reported he had received a letter from tenant, Roger DeYoung, asking that the Drainage Board move the Conklin Ditch up in the priority order (outlet on west side of state line – goes under SR 10). Discussion followed as to the priority of the drains. There is considerable work that would need to be done on this project as the tenant reported there are numerous problems with drainage. Jim stated nothing can be done without a definitive watershed. Deb reported since the Conklin has never been assessed, there must be a hearing after the watershed has been defined. She also stated the estimated acreage in the watershed is 1620 acres. Since this drain also involves Illinois, Chris suggested forming a Bi-State Drainage Board. Chris asked if we want to move the Conklin up on the priority list. Neither the Knight-Moffit-Stover #1 nor the Hibler/Otis-Boyle #2 has had assessments established. Chris recommended moving the Conklin to #3 and moving Beaver Lake Open Main to #4. Deb mentioned to the board that Beaver Lake owes the GDIF \$59,000 at the present time. Tim does not want anything stopped or slowed down on other ditches which would cause a delay in assessments. Therefore the priority list will not be changed at this time. The Beaver Lake Open Main Ditch Report will be presented to the board on October 1, 2012.

**Hibler System Report** – Larry reported there is only a 2’ fall from the county line to the Hibler so we really can’t take on Jasper County’s water. Chris will send a letter to the President of the Bi-County Drainage Board stating that after technical review, draining more water into Newton County is not feasible due to cost and technical reasons.

**Urban Drain Designation** – Chris mentioned to the board that there is a designation that the surveyor’s office can give to a drain that is no longer being used as an agricultural drain and is subdivided for urban use. This would change the assessment process for the designated drain. Chris is working with Dan on this issue.

**Ditches to be Certified for Annual Assessment 2012** – Deb presented the board with the list of ditches to be assessed for their approval and signatures. List was approved and signed.

**Iroquois River Project** – Dan informed the board that Newton County received a grant in the amount of \$279,000 and \$186,000 was received by Jasper County for the river project.

Tim made the motion to adjourn with a second from Jim. Motion carried.